The BAR ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

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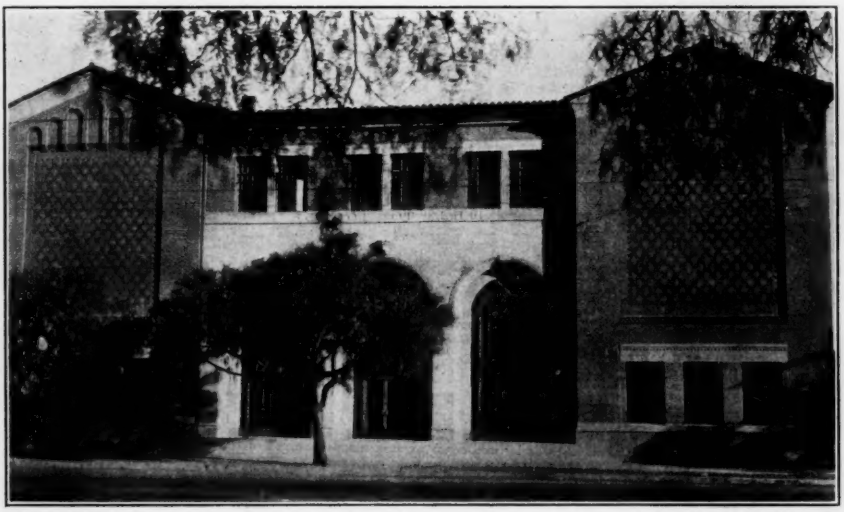

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THE BAR ASSOCIATION BULLETIN

Published the first and third Thursdays of each month.

CHAS. L. NICHOLS, *Editor*

Office: 687 I. W. Hellman Building, Los Angeles

Telephone: TUcker 1384

The New Bulletin

In September, 1925, the Los Angeles Bar Association first undertook the publication of an official bulletin—a four-page issue, published monthly. The experiment was possible through the courtesy of the Daily Journal in publishing the BULLETIN free of cost to the Association. Five numbers were issued on this basis.

However, such a plan proved somewhat impracticable. The monthly issues were too infrequent for official announcements and other bulletin purposes; considerable incidental expense was entailed upon the Association with each issue; and, above all, the plan did not lend itself readily to expansion and enlargement—revenue was necessary for expansion.

At the same time, here was a potential source of revenue—an excellent medium of advertisement for all who desire to reach the legal profession. With the revenue, we could build up a real bulletin for the Association, develop an interesting law register, and generally enlarge the scope and usefulness of our publication. The change of policy in the publication of the BULLETIN was both natural and expedient. Our advertisers herein appreciated the opportunity by their ready support. Larger printing facilities were necessary. Our proposal, likewise, met instant approval with Parker, Stone & Baird, law printers and engravers, who pledged their heartiest cooperation. And so, we have the new BULLETIN.

Official announcements will be made through the new BULLETIN; likewise, annual reports of officers and committees. Practitioners, teachers and students of the law will be called upon to contribute instructive discussions of current legal problems. In short, it is our hope to develop the BULLETIN into a substantial legal periodical for the Los Angeles Bar Association.

Annual Report of Secretary

The Secretary presents herewith his annual report of the activities of the Los Angeles Bar Association for the year 1925-26, both as the Secretary of the General Association and as Secretary of the Grievance Committee.

The Association has, at the present time, 1808 active and honorary members, 31 having been suspended for nonpayment of 1925 dues, 6 members having resigned, 1 member, Dana Ong, having been expelled, there being 129 reinstatements, and 587 new members having joined during the past year. As against the year 1924-25, the above figures represent a gain in membership of 661. During the past year two membership applications were rejected, and there are 14 applications pending.

The roll of members who died during the past year is as follows:

B. G. Hurlburt	W. E. Dunn
Grant Jackson	H. M. Barstow
Bradner W. Lee	W. Egbert Mitchell
H. C. Beach	Thomas O. Toland
John L. Richardson	Thomas E. McClelland
John W. Mitchell	Thomas C. Job
Thomas Lee Woolwine	James M. Hull
E. E. Mellette	George M. Martin
Wm. A. Cheney	

Under the able management of the Committee on Meetings, the Association held eight meetings during the year, on which occasions, addresses were delivered to the members of the Association by:

Arthur M. Ellis	Edward T. Bishop
Chas. H. Brock	G. R. Crump
A. M. Cathcart	W. J. Ford
John H. Wigmore	Leon R. Yankwich
Robert E. L. Saner	Gurney E. Newlin
John F. Keogh	F. Dumont Smith
Carlos S. Hardy	Chas. H. Whitman
Chas. W. Fricke	Chester I. Long
Wm. T. Aggeler	

During the course of the year the Board of Trustees held thirty-three regular meetings, in addition to which the Secretary is pleased to report that all of the more active committees, as well as numerous special committees, have functioned with commendable efficiency and with tangible results to the Association.

In this connection it may be of interest to note that at the present time there are 42 members of the Bar whose names appear on the Public Defender's Civil List. During the period from January 1st, 1925, to January 1st, 1926, 2009 matters were referred by the Public Defender to the attorneys on the Civil List above referred to, and during the period from August 1st, 1914, when the Public Defender's Civil List was instituted, to January 1st, 1926, 16,035 matters were referred to the various attorneys who, from time to time, have assisted in this splendid work.

The Secretary is glad to report that in response to the call of the Board of Trustees, over 350 members of the Association have offered to render assistance to the American Legion through its Veterans Bureau Committee, in the matter of furnishing the necessary legal services in guardianship cases affecting ex-service men and women.

On behalf of the Membership Campaign Committee, the following report is made of the result of the campaign:

Since the start of the Campaign, the Comittee has secured 552 new members and 112 reinstatements.

Received by the Assn. on account of 552 new members	$3,865.00
Received by the Assn. on account of 112 reinstatements	1,275.00
Total of	$5,140.00
Expended by the Committee during campaign	2,011.37
Net Gain to the Assn. on 664 new and reinstated members	$3,128.63

As a further result of the campaign, the revenues of the Association during the year 1926 will be increased by approximately $4600.00.

On behalf of the Grievance Committee, the following statistics are given, covering the high points of the Committee's activities for the year:

Unfinished matters received from retiring committee	38
New complaints received	98
Total complaints received	136
Complaints dismissed after action by the Committee	80
Complaints on which Grievance Committee took some affirmative action	29
Pending matters	27
Hearings by Departments of the Grievance Committee	64
Actual night attendance by Committee	17
Meetings of the General Committee	9
Total meetings	26
Matters referred for prosecution by Trustees on recommendation of General Committee	9
Proceedings filed in Court by the Assn.	6
Attorneys disbarred after accusation filed (George Goode, Hale Day)	2
Attorneys suspended after accusation filed (T. S. Grasty)	1
Disbarred attorneys held for contempt after accusation filed (Edward Drobnis, W. J. Hittson)	2
Attorneys recommended for censure by Trustees	7
Attorneys disbarred after conviction of a felony (A. P. Morewood, Guy L. Rockwell, Daniel Riordan, Max Rappaport, John U. Hemmit)	5
Attorneys resigned after disbarment recommended (Chester D. French)	1
Accusations pending in Superior Court	1
Matters now in hands of Special Prosecutor	6
Complaints preliminarily investigated by Secretary	238

Respectfully submited,

R. H. F. VARIEL, JR.,
Secretary.

Report of Legislation Committee for Year 1925-1926

The present committee was appointed during the legislative session of 1925 and immediately fell heir to the unfinished business of its predecessor which consisted chiefly of the work with respect to Municipal Courts. The membership of the committee has been very active at all times, and in conjunction with the committee on inferior courts, headed by Honorable Thomas Ambrose, secured the passage of fifteen bills relating to Municipal Courts, which were later approved by the Governor and form the statutory basis for the operation of the present Municipal Courts in Long Beach and Los Angeles.

Upon the recommendation of the committee, a special committee was formed by order of the trustees to supervise and conduct litigation to determine certain disputed points of interpretation chiefly in the constitutional amendment which provided for Municipal Courts. Decisions in these cases were rendered early in December.

Late in the fall of 1925, the trustees of the Association referred to this committee the work of revising the Corporation Laws of the State in conjunction with other Bar Associations and other bodies interested, and in December the committee, after a preliminary investigation, reported to the trustees a tentative plan for revision and asking the cooperation of various bodies of laymen such as Chambers of Commerce, etc., under the leadership of the Bar Association. As yet, the Board of Trustees has taken no action upon this matter other than to lay the report of the committee upon the table. Lacking authority to proceed further in the name of the Association, the committee has taken no further steps.

Respectfully submitted,

KIMBALL FLETCHER, *Chairman.*

Report of Committee on Substantive Law

Your Committee on Substantive Law considered a number of subjects during the past year. Among the most important under consideration by your committee were the following:

In August, 1925, the California Supreme Court decided that the 1923 Amendment to the Civil Code, known as Section 290b, is unconstitutional. The decision was rendered in the case of Del Monte Light & Power Company against Frank C. Jordon, Secretary of State. The court held in that case that the State Constitution requires that corporations organized thereunder should have their capitalization represented in shares of a single par value.

It was the desire of your committee to amend the law appertaining to the above matter and for that purpose a special committee consisting of Messrs. Alfred Wright, Gurney E. Newlin and Erwin M. Walker was appointed. The chairman of the committee, Mr. Wright, was absent from the state for a considerable length of time, and on account of the work required was unable to complete the proposed amendment, which no doubt also required an amendment of the Constitution to cover the subject.

It is the sense of the committee that this work should go forward under the next committee on Substantive Law.

Another subject under consideration by your committee was a uniform marriage and divorce law.

There has been prepared by the committee on marriage and divorce of the national conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, a uniform marriage and marriage license act, which your committee looked upon with favor as a step in the right direction. The act has already been adopted in several of the states, among others Wisconsin and Massachusetts.

A uniform divorce act was considered equally necessary by your committee. The last session of Congress had this matter under consideration as a Federal enactment which would require an amendment to the United States Constitution. Senator Capper of Kansas has charge of the matter and has introduced a bill upon the subject which requires an amendment to the Constitution. The matter is one which should be looked into and recommendations made by subsequent committees. The evils growing out of the conflict of laws upon this subject are very great and far-reaching, and your committee feels that the solution will be in the adoption of a uniform law that will remedy the evils existing.

Respectfully submitted,

R. L. Horton, *Chairman.*

Regular Monthly Meeting

Alexandria Hotel

Thursday, March 25th, 6:00 P. M.

Dinner: $2.00 per Plate

Program

Henry M. Willis, Presiding Judge of the Municipal Court: "The New Municipal Court."

Also, Wm. H. Anderson will expound certain radical views concerning the making of many laws; and a suggested cure for heterogeneous legislation by a possible method tending to homogeneity.

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Statement, December 31st, 1925

RESOURCES

Cash in Banks	$1,260,530.87
Bonds	2,091,334.90
Bonds in State Treasury	204,878.50
Mortgage Loans on Real Estate	1,738,333.42
Mortgage Loans in State Treasury	509,000.00
Collateral Loans	330,666.67
Stocks	772,757,64
Real Estate	466,839.65
Revenue Stamps	40,911.29
Advance Fund	39,880.00
	$7,455,132.94

LIABILITIES

Capital Stock	$3,000,000.00
Surplus	1,050,000.00
Undivided Profits	3,405,132.94
	$7,455,132.94

In addition to the resources shown above, the Company owns its title plant, complete in every detail—one of the best in the United States—which, in connection with its Escrow Department, makes it possible to render a service unsurpassed by any other title insurance company. A duplicate of this plant is stored in the Company's fireproof Archives Building near Hollywood, which would enable it to continue its service in case a conflagration should destroy the county records and the plant in the Main Office at Fifth and Spring Streets.

The Company issues Policies of Title Insurance and Guarantees, handles Escrows and acts in all trust capacities.

The Company's Policies of Title Insurance and Guarantees are never questioned by investors, no matter how large the amount for which they are issued. The Company's splendid service, together with its high financial standing, have been of great assistance in bringing large amounts of capital for investment in Southern California. Its reputation for fair dealing, covering a period of thirty-two years, is so well known as to require no comment.

The Company also issues Policies of Title Insurance and Guarantees and handles Escrows on property in the counties of San Diego, Ventura, Kern, Tulare, Riverside and Santa Barbara.

Orders for Policies and Guarantees to be issued in those counties can be placed, if desired, with the Main Office at Fifth and Spring Streets, or can be sent direct to the affiliated companies, as follows:

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IN VENTURA COUNTY, to *Ventura Abstract Company,* 811 East Main Street, Ventura.

IN KERN COUNTY, to *The Kern County Abstract Company,* Morgan Building, Bakersfield.

IN TULARE COUNTY, to *Tulare County Abstract Company,* 204 West Main Street, Visalia.

IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, to *Santa Barbara County Title Company,* 31 West Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara.

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Message of the Los Angeles C of of Certified A

Public welfare in financial matters is more and more dependent on the work of the Certified Public Accountant. In very much the same way that the public health depends on the legal restrictions and safeguards in the practice of medicine, the uninterrupted financial progress of the country is dependent upon the authenticity of accountancy and upon the laws intended to secure this authenticity.

But legal enactments are no stronger than public opinion. Unless there is a widespread public recognition of the service of the profession of accountancy in the United States, the laws which have been enacted will not be sustained, nor will future legislation carry on the work so well begun

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of the California State Society Accountants

For this reason the California State Society of Certified Public Accountants has planned to acquaint other Professions, and the public generally with its aims and purposes. Hence, this message from the Los Angeles Chapter.

Just what the work of the public accountant is, why the designation of Certified Public Accountant has been established by law, and how this purely American degree has become known throughout the world by the work of American accountants, will be told in a brief and simple way in the messages which will appear on these pages from time to time.

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Report of Special Committee on the Annual Election of Officers and Trustees

The special committee appointed by President Mott to canvass the ballots cast for the election of Officers and Trustees of the Los Angeles Bar Association for the ensuing year of 1926-27, begs leave to submit the following report of the count made at the office of the Secretary, on Wednesday, February 24th, 1926, at 2:30 P. M.

Total ballots mailed out by Secy.	1770
Total ballots received by Secy.	773
Ballots rejected because voters' names were not indicated on identification envelope	48
Total ballots counted	725
FOR PRESIDENT:	
Eugene Overton	710
Scattering among 6 candidates	6
FOR SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT:	
Kemper Campbell	675
Scattering among 14 candidates	17
FOR JUNIOR VICE-PRESIDENT:	
Hubert Morrow	695
Scattering among 5 candidates	5
FOR TREASURER:	
T. W. Robinson	715
One other candidate	1
FOR SECRETARY:	
R. H. F. Variel, Jr.	710
Scattering among 3 candidates	3
FOR TRUSTEES:	
Norman A. Bailie	700
G. R. Crump	694
Leonard B. Slosson	704
Scattering among 15 candidates, only one of whom received more than 1 vote	16

Respectfully submitted,

WALTER E. BURKE
Chairman
TRENT G. ANDERSON
CHAS. T. NICHOLS
E. NEAL AMES
PAUL E. YOUNKIN

Attest:
R. H. F. VARIEL, JR., *Secretary*

Committee on Lawyers' Building

The special committee on Lawyers' Building has completed a preliminary survey of conditions bearing upon a proposed office building for lawyers exclusively. Among other things, the special committee has ascertained the wishes of the members of the Association with reference to location and has considered in some detail the various methods of financing the project. The time is now ripe to organize a permanent committee, increase its membership to a working basis, and to adopt a definite program.

To this end, Chairman Overton has called the first meeting of the new committee as a dinner meeting at the City Club on Wednesday evening, March 24, a 6:00 p. m. About 50 members of the Association have been requested to attend and to accept membership on the committee. After the report of the special committee has been made the new committee will be permanently organized and a definite course of action determined upon.

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Rodenbeck, Anatomy of the Law, 1923	4.00
Brumbaugh Legal Reasoning and Briefing	5.00

TAXATION—A TIMELY SUBJECT—(Both books are needed)

Montgomery, Income Tax Procedure, 2 vols., 1926	18.00
Gleason & Otis, Inheritance Taxation, 1925	15.00

FORM BOOKS—(Many lawyers have ordered all five)

Nichols, Annotated Forms, 1925	20.00
Church, Legal Forms, 1925	10.00
Birdseye's Abbott, Encyclopedia of Legal Forms, 1924	18.50
Cowdery's Legal Forms, 1918	7.50
Jones' Legal Forms, 1919	10.00

PROHIBITION—(A subject of growing importance)

Cornelius, Search and Seizure, 1926	10.00
McFadden, Prohibition, 1925	12.00
Thorpe, Prohibition and Industrial Alcohol, with Digest of Cases, 1926	12.00

CRIMINAL LAW

Glueck, Mental Disorder and the Criminal Law, 1925	7.00
Abbott, Criminal Trial Brief, 1925	10.00
Underhill, Criminal Evidence, 1923	10.00

OTHER LATE BOOKS

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INSTALLMENT SALES: Estrich, 1926	15.00
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Excerpt from
"Truth at Court Trials"

Virginia Law Register, Vol. XI, No. 8, December, 1925

In the case of PEOPLE vs. DORRIS, recently tried in Los Angeles,

"it appeared that one Henry D. Meyer had called at the apartment of C. W. Dorris, who had been a business associate for many years. A slight disturbance had been heard, and as officers entered the apartment Meyer and Mrs. Dorris lay shot to death upon the floor. Dorris stated in substance that Meyer had forced him to tear up a $25,000 note, payable to him and signed by Meyer. All of the note had been destroyed except the signature which was found in the pocket of the deceased. Dorris maintained that a struggle had taken place between the two men, that the revolver was in the hand of Meyer during the entire struggle, that Mrs. Dorris was shot as she interceded, and that Meyer shot himself during the struggle. The torn fragment of paper became the center of controversy.

"Members of Meyer's firm, attorneys and persons calling themselves handwriting experts, declared the name 'Henry D. Meyer' on this fragment to be a forgery. Should that contention be established there would have been clear motive for the unfortunate demise of Meyer. Further investigations were made, however, by the District Attorney, and this torn fragment was turned over for examination to Milton Carlson*, the noted Examiner of Questioned Documents, who gave it as his opinion that the signature was not a forgery, but in fact a true signature of Henry D. Meyer. This was so convincing that the State stipulated the genuineness of the signature at the trial, which resulted in an acquittal. This is a splendid example of a case in which an expert knowledge of documents, of science backed with integrity, was required."

*MILTON CARLSON,
Examiner and Photographer of Questioned Documents, Suite 601, Law Building, Los Angeles, California.

Adv.

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